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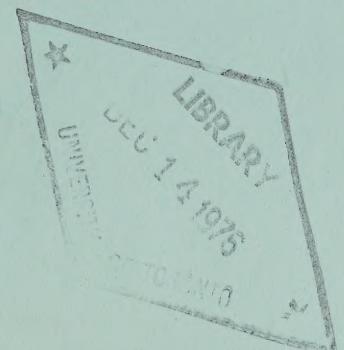
Government
Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

JUNE 14, 1975

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Appendix "A" President's Introductory Remarks

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0180

MEETINGS

OPEN MEETING WITH WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

LOCATION

Wilfrid Laurier University

DATE AND TIME

June 14, 1975
9:45 a.m.

5-0181

ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J.S. Dupré

W.E. Bagnall

W.A. Goyan

M.A.B. Bush

T. Giesbrecht

A. D'Iorio

D.G. Hill

P.D. Fleck

A.L. McCallion

J.D. Fisher

J.F. Mustard

R. Gerstein

M.F. Orange

L. Good

R.P. Riggin

H.H. Walker

OCUA STAFF

J.P. Venton
Executive Secretary

N.E. Simmons
Associate Secretary

WILFRID LAURIER DELEGATES

Dr. Neale H. Tayler
Acting President

Dr. Gerald Vallilée
Dean, Faculty of Arts
and Science

Dr. Norman E. Wagner
Dean, Faculty of Graduate
Studies

Mr. Henry R. Dueck
Registrar

Dr. Frances J. Turner
Acting Vice-President: Academic

Dr. John Melichercik
Dean, Faculty of Social Work

Dr. Max D. Stewart
Dean, School of Business
and Economics

Miss Tamara Giesbrecht
Vice-President: Controller

5-0182

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

A copy of the President's introductory remarks is attached to these Minutes as Appendix "A". In addition to matters dealt with in depth in the brief subsequent discussion focused on the following:

5-0183

FORMULA REVISION

i) General/Honours Distinction

At Wilfrid Laurier at the third and fourth year level distinction existed between honours and general courses. In some programmes such as Modern Languages two separate systems were maintained throughout. Generally, honours classes were smaller than those of general students.

The average undergraduate Arts and Science weight at Wilfrid Laurier was 1.18.

ii) Enrolment Desensitization

The delegation reported that the University had determined an ideal size for fixed enrolment of between 2,600 and 3,000 students. It was felt that growth was not a solution to the financial situation and that given a situation of steady state enrolment with a BIU value at a reasonable level, the University would be satisfied with the present formula.

iii) Student Weights

In the discussion of Wilfrid Laurier's recommendation for an 'upward revision of 0.5 for professional schools requiring considerable field placement' it was noted that in Social Work funds generated were inadequate to cover per student fees to agencies. Agency costs incurred through student field work had been estimated at up to \$1,500 per student for the required time commitment of the field instructor and the provision of a broad spectrum of experiences to

each student. The delegation saw payment of a stipend to an agency a means of gaining additional control over the experience given to students by the agency. It was felt that a social work class size of 65 to 70 would be optimal.

iv) Off-Campus Instruction

The Council learned that the Simcoe College Foundation in Orillia had asked WLU and another university to submit proposals for a satellite college in that community. WLU's off campus courses in that centre had experienced steady state enrolment, but the Simcoe College Foundation felt that with the establishment of the satellite enrolment would increase. Wilfrid Laurier had originally considered that a university college approach would be suitable in Orillia, but had subsequently been advised by the Ministry that a satellite campus model would be preferable. WLU's proposal, if accepted, would require MCU start-up funds.

5-0184

TUITION FEES

The minimal leeway for assessment of fees beyond a provincially established tuition level recommended by WLU was intended to provide university flexibility to offset additional costs of special programme features.

5-0185

ACCESSIBILITY

In recent years Wilfrid Laurier had found entrants to have a broader range of ability, a wider range of knowledge and diminished technical skills. With regard to applicant or entrant testing, the following opinions were given:

1. Testing for literacy and numeracy could be of some value.
2. No real evidence had been found to indicate inflated high school marks.
3. Grade 13 marks were considered a sound predictor of university performance.
4. Requiring the prerequisite of grade 13 English would be unlikely to improve entrant literacy.

5. Subject tests, like grade 13 departmentals, were not viewed favourably.

6. System-wide placement tests would be comparable to SACU which had been found to be an inadequate predictor of university performance.

The delegation indicated that no evidence had been seen of discriminatory practices toward WLU students on the part of professional schools elsewhere.

5-0186 STUDENT SUPPORT

i) Undergraduate

The delegation cautioned that if universities were allowed the freedom to set tuition fees, an expanded OSAP scheme would be required to prevent accessibility from becoming jeopardized. At present, approximately 45% of full-time undergraduate students at Wilfrid Laurier made application for OSAP support.

As well Wilfrid Laurier offered undergraduate admission scholarships to first year students with a minimum average of 80%. Most of these awards were in the range of \$250 to \$400.

ii) Graduate

It was reported that 75% of graduate students in Arts and Science at Wilfrid Laurier would receive teaching assistantships and that when this group was expanded to include Ontario Graduate Scholarship holders the proportion increased to 80%. It was pointed out that since Wilfrid Laurier had no doctoral programmes, students did not receive prestige awards from federal agencies.

5-0187

MACRO-INDICATORS

The delegation considered that an academic research:faculty ratio would be precarious given fiscal restraints which require faculty to spend more time teaching. This ratio was not currently being used at WLJ where it was felt that emphasis on research and teaching must be kept in balance. The delegation suggested that the extent of research be examined also in light of its relationship to the educational objectives of an institution.

5-0188

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

i) Operating

The delegation indicated that during recent faculty recruiting the University had been mindful of the dangers of a narrow faculty age distribution. For example, in social work, the University had hired a number of faculty close to retirement age. Difficulties in recruiting centred primarily on the University's financial inability to attract senior faculty.

With regard to operating costs generally, it was noted that Wilfrid Laurier's physical plant allocation was proportionately 1/3 less than at other universities due to the small, contained nature of the campus. The low number of support staff was noted as a stage in the University's planned development. In this regard

the University's over-riding concern was that faculty not be called upon to do support staff jobs.

ii) Capital

The delegation stressed Wilfrid Laurier had a proportionately higher unrealised capital entitlement than any other university in Ontario. The current entitlement would provide for one 44,000 n.a.s.f. teaching building which would cost in the neighbourhood of \$5-6 million and would be used to replace space currently leased by the University. The delegation noted that the Minister had indicated that once the moratorium was lifted WLU's outstanding entitlement would be considered.

5-0189

WLU PRESS

The delegation brought Council up to date on developments with the WLU Press since its hearing last fall. It was noted that distribution and costs had been at a level anticipated and that of the 7 titles published subsidies would be received for 4 from the Humanities Research Council and the Social Sciences Council. The Press did not feel that it could provide text books at lower cost than other publishers, but interest was expressed in examining the potential for introducing new textbook formats.

N. E. Simmons
.....

N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary

J. S. Dupré
.....
J. S. Dupré
Chairman

President's Introductory Remarks

Mr. Chairman:

I am very pleased to welcome the members of the Ontario Council on University Affairs to the campus of Wilfrid Laurier University. I am also happy to have had the opportunity of showing the Council some part of our facilities and their attendant problems.

Once again, it is my wish to take advantage of the opportunity to make an opening statement that will be a little different in character from our written brief which has been prepared as a direct response to the Council's particular interests.

Mr. Chairman, I feel quite secure in my conviction that other universities, by now, will have carefully informed Council of the financial difficulties they as individual universities and the system as a whole face as a result of the Government's current policy vis-à-vis post-secondary education. It is, therefore, not my wish to dwell on this matter here as our views appear in our Brief in Part 2.

However, I do wish to place before the Council something of the reactions of this University community to the events, speeches and comments that have emanated from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities since last November. I think it is honest to say that we are prepared to believe there are government financial embarrassments at this particular time, but we are seriously concerned that the government, the minister and his officials begin to show a positive attitude toward the universities and, indeed, toward O.C.U.A. A number of factors have affected the institutions of the province in a detrimental way, and it is apparent that their effects will continue to be felt for some time

to come. Given the investment which the government has made on behalf of the people of Ontario in a fine system of higher education, it is discouraging to allow it to decline, but it is appalling to find those holding political responsibility treating board chairmen, presidents and the chairman of the O.C.U.A. not just in a cavalier manner, but indeed by their words encouraging antipathy to the universities, to faculty and to higher education in the public at large. My point, Mr. Chairman, is that I trust O.C.U.A. in making recommendations to the Ministry will concern itself with public attitudes to the constituent parts of the Ministry, especially as they may be influenced by official behaviour.

With this said, I prefer to use my time to say something of the academic life of W.L.U., since the specific points of interest of the Council list other concerns.

When we made our submission to the Council last November, I pointed out that Bill 178 created Wilfrid Laurier University as a provincially-assisted, free-standing University. With this constantly in mind and with our long-standing determination, dating back to 1911, that we are here today and here to stay, we have concentrated our energies on the prime purpose of the University -- the pursuit of learning through scholarship, teaching, and research, while putting our trust in O.C.U.A. to speak for financing. To this end, I would like to list something of our accomplishments since November.

We have completed the transformation of our Department of Music into a separate Faculty and have appointed a most outstanding musician, scholar and academic planner in the person of Dr. Christine Mather. We have installed the new tracker organ designed and built by Casavant Frères, which you heard

last evening and which is one of the finest teaching instruments of its kind in the province. With the two other appointments we made to this Faculty and the close-liaison with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, we have no hesitation in saying we are on the way to providing a type of program in music that is second to none and unique in this area.

In the graduate field, I am happy to report that every graduate program submitted for appraisal and reviewed by the Council of Ontario Universities has been positively received and approved. We are awaiting a decision on our Master of Business Program which has the endorsement of the Ontario Council of Graduate Deans and is presently in the hands of A.C.A.P.

We are proud of the record of the Wilfrid Laurier University Press which we instituted barely a year ago. Since last November, the Press has undertaken seven new titles and a reprint of a History of Kitchener. There is a variety of subjects and the authors, whose manuscripts have been accepted, are from the University of Waterloo, McGill, New York, Huron College, W.L.U. and McMaster.

In the matter of research, we have continued to pursue active encouragement for involvement on the part of our faculty and students. In an institution that is largely of an arts nature, it is understandably more difficult to attract outside funds than for universities with large science centres, engineering, dentistry, etc. In spite of this, we have had a definite improvement in funding over the past year and a considerable increase in the number of professors carrying on research activities. Grants totalling \$146,597 were received by faculty members from outside the University, in addition to funds allocated from within the institution.

In the School of Business and Economics, we are in the process of developing a cooperative program in business which will provide an alternate and needed form of education for business students. We believe this is a significant addition to our curriculum and one that parallels apparent attitudes in society, that is, that education be practical and, wherever possible, self-supporting.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words on the question of capital grants. I am aware that in many institutions cyclical renewal is a major concern in that it relieves operating expenses where certain repairs or alterations can reduce these costs. I also realize that such renewals allow for conversion of space from what may be unnecessary or unusable space to productive quarters. I sympathize with the needs of others but, after the tour of our facilities last night, I want O.C.U.A. to sympathize with our problems. While we had the greatest discrepancy in net assignable teaching space under the formula in the province, we received the lowest capital grant. In fact, we did not even receive enough of a grant to pay for the houses we were tacitly encouraged to buy on our campus and which we use for offices and teaching. You have seen for yourselves the ways in which we have had to adapt space and, indeed, do without facilities. We are not overbuilt and we are not to be convinced that our entitlement is to be dismissed. It is my request, Mr. Chairman, that on this round of recommendations your Council will give due consideration to this question and it is my expectation that the recommendations of O.C.U.A. in capital matters will be such as to be uncompromising.

